

## SANDHA GAMANGO GAINS FROM 'SRI'

Even after 60 years of India's independence, there is no pucca motarable all season read to the village Chanabania of Malaspadar Gram Panchayat of Mohana Block, District Gajapati where 22 christian tribal (soura) families live.



Sandha Gamango is one among them lives with his wife Dagadi, sons & grand children in this village. He has only half an area (ROR) own land but enjoys additional half acre up land & one acre from shifting cultivable land adopting age old farming practice & packages. The total yield is never sufficient for the outstanding loan from money lender. What ever Sandha produces are paid to the moneylender and returns empty handed. He used to take loan from the moneylender during paddy cultivation in terms of money, chemical fertilizer, seeds, pesticides etc.



Both Sandha & his wife used to work as daily laborers to feed their family. The husband & wife used visit the forest to collect NTFP (Food) on the days they don't get job as daily laborer. In the year 2008 SACAL started working in the GP named Malaspadar where they taught people to adopt SRI for paddy cultivation & earn higher yield for uplifting their socio economic development. SACAL was supported by SDTT for up scaling SRI in tribal area where land holding used to be small and

so also less rice production.

A village meeting was conducted by staff of SACAL in the village Chanabania where interested farmers were identified & registered. Sandha Gamango was one among several interested villagers. With a lot of curiosity & fear Sandha Gamango used only 15 cents of his land for SRI. During the flowering stage of the crop there were no rains nor water from any source in that hill area. The crop was ruined. But he has observed impressive yields from the neighboring farmers.

Sandha was not totally broke. By nature he is optimistic with high hopes. He has taken up SRI during RABI in 50 cent land with assured water supply. He chose a 50 cent plot closer to assured water source thus the sad taste of crop failure should not break his faith in SRI. Killing instinct helped him. Being supported by his wife and adopting every minute steps of SRI process, Sandha found 60 to 80 tillers coming from each 2 months old plant. From these 60 to 80 tillers, 40 to 50 panicles were found with paddy seed up to 250-316 healthy grains. Each panicle was between 11 to 12 cm in length.

At the time of harvest (crop cutting experiment) kg. 4.450 gram paddy was collected from 75 sft. in the presence of villagers & staff of SACAL. The yield was Qtl. 25.850 kg. per Acre. Other villagers were insisting him to use chemical fertilizers etc. but he used only organic inputs like vermin-compost, liquid manure for pest management also he used only organic inputs like cow dung, leaves of calotropis, neem & karanja.

Initially he was septic to SRI and Organic Farming. The yield conformed his whole faith & belief in organically grown SRI. Later he tendered apology to the staff of SACAL.